

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 SSC-01

EB-07 /076 W

----- 040454

O 251700Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9326

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN PINT SU

SUBJ: DISMISSAL OF FINANCE MINISTER

1. WITH CHARACTERISTIC RUTHLESSNESS, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI
JAN 25 SUMMARILY DISMISSED HIS ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL HIGH COMMAND:
MINFINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY IBRAHIM MONEIM MANSOUR, MIN STATE
FOR TRAD HASSAN BILAIL AND MINFIN UNDERSECRETARY HASSAB AL-RASOUL
ORABI. ACTION CAME IN WAKE CHARGES OF IMPROPRIETIES WHICH RESULTED
IN OVERWHELMING VOTE (124-10 WITH 24 ABSENTIONS) JAN 22 BY
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY (SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY PRESIDENT) CANCELLING
CONCESSION TO QUOTE NILE VALLEY COMPANY UNQUOTE FOR MONOPOLY OVER
SUDANESE EXPORTS TO, AND PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM,
WESTERN EUROPE.

2. PROPOSED COMPANY WAS TO HAVE BEEN OWNED AS FOLLOWS: A) 60 PERCENT
BY SMALL GROUP OF PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN, INCLUDING THREE FROM
AL-OBEID IN MANSOUR'S HOME PROVINCE; B) 20 PERCENT BY OTHER PRIVATE
CITIZENS THROUGH PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION; AND C) 20 PERCENT BY GOS.

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LATTER INTERESTE REPORTEDLY TURNED OVER TO GOS (PRESUMABLY

FINANCE MINISTRY) WITHOUT PAYMENT, GIVING RISE ALLEGATIONS CORRUPTION. WHILE MANSOUR IS SAID TO HAVE CLEARED IDEA WITH NIMEIRI, WE BELIEVE FINANCE MINISTERS FALL IN FACT CAUSED BY MOUNTING FRICTION BETWEEN CABINET OFFICERS AND SSU HEIRARCHS, NOTABLY KEY SSU LEADER BADR AL-DIN SULIMAN. PRESIDENT DECIDED SUPPORT LATTER, EITHER BECAUSE HE FELT MANSOUR BECOMING INSUFFICIENTLY RESPONSIVE NIMEIRI'S OWN WISHES, OR TO AVOID ALIENATING MAJOR SEGEMENT SSU, OR BOTH.

3. FOREGOING APPEARS TO US ANOTHER STEP IN EFFORTS WHICH SSU ACTIVISTS LED BY SULIMAN HAVE BEEN MAKING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TO BROADEN THEIR POWER BASE AND BREATHE LIFE INTO LEGAL CONCEPT THAT PARTY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO REFLECTS CONTINUING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "PRO-MANSOUR" AND "PRO-BAHA" (MINSTATE FOR SPECIAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY, DR. BAH AL-DIN IDRIS) FACTIONS IN CABINET, SEEDS OF WHICH GO BACK TO GENESIS TRIAD-ENGINEERED \$200 MILLION EURODOLLAR LOAN YEAR AGO. CHOICE OF NILE VALLEY COMPANY CASE AS ANTI-MANSOUR VEHICLE WAS FELICITOUS, SINCE OPPOSITION TO CONCESSION WAS WIDESPREAD. DISMISSALS THUS APPEAR PRIMARILY AS MOVE IN INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE. AMONG LEADING CONTENDERS FOR MANSOUR'S JOB IS BELIEVED TO BE MAMOUN BIHEIRY, WHOSE NAME HAD CROPPED UP MONTHS AGO IN THE CONNECTION AND WHOSE POLICY VIEWS, AS OPPOSED TO PERSONAL AND PARTY CONNECTIONS, NOT BELIEVED TO DIFFER NOTABLY FROM NIMEIRI'S. IT PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT BIHEIRY WAS AMONG SPONSOR OF MOTION TO CANCEL CONCESSION.

4. FOR JIDDA: PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING TO ROCKEFELLER PARTY, IF POSSIBLE.
BREWER

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